

REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to add the cross-reference heading and paragraph. Applicants have amended claims 4-7 to eliminate multiple dependencies. As such, these amendments do not introduce new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants have rewritten independent claim 1 as new claim 9 to conform with U.S. practice, changing it from the format of an agent for a particular use to a method claim, and conformed dependent claims 2 – 5 by rewriting them as new claims 10 – 16. This amendment is supported at page 1, lines 7- 10, page 3, lines 27 – 30, page 10, lines 8 – 12, and page 11, lines 3 – 10. New claim 17 is directed to periodontal diseases to be treated, and is supported by page 11, lines 3-10. As such, these amendments introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

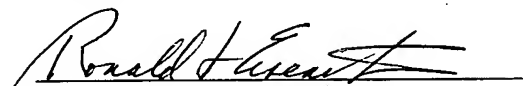
In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it is kindly requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney concerning the same to expedite prosecution of this application.

Entry of the foregoing and prompt and favorable consideration of the subject application on the merits are respectfully requested.

Fee deficiencies may be charged and overpayments credited to the NIXON PEABODY LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0850.

Date: September 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald I. Eisenstein (30,628)
Nicole L.M. Valtz (47,150)
NIXON PEABODY LLP
100 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 345-6054/1270